

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175060

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 8684 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO
DATED JUL 11:

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8684

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON, SAUNDERS AND HODDING CARTER III

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR PGOV IS EG US

SUBJ: KREISKY-BRANDT STATEMENT

1. THE JULY 11 PAPERS HERE ARE FULL OF REPORTS FROM VIENNA
OF THE KREISKY-BRANDT STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST. SHIMON
PERES APPARENTLY BELIEVES HE GAINED "A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT,"
AND EGYPTIAN SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT SADAT, TOO,
IS PLEASED WITH THE STATEMENT.

2. WHILE WE OF COURSE WELCOME THIS DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE TO
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BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT WE SAY ABOUT IT. PERES HAS, THROUGH
HIS MEETING WITH SADAT AND HIS SUPPORT OF THIS STATEMENT,
FAIRLY WELL SET THE CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS HERE. BEGIN AND
HIS ASSOCIATES WILL WITHOUT QUESTION REPLY IN KIND AND THE
DOMESTIC DEBATE IN ISRAEL WILL BE BITTER. INDEED, THIS WEEK
HAS ALREADY SEEN CHARGES WHICH CLEARLY ORIGINATED IN BEGIN'S
OFFICE THAT PERES IS SACRIFICING THE COUNTRY'S INTEREST

IN PURSUIT OF HIW OWN POLITICAL OBJECTIVES. ANYTHING
SPECIFIC AND POSITIVE WE SAY ABOUT THE KREISKY-BRANDT
LANGUAGE WILL BE USED AGAINST US AND PERES BY THE GOVERN-
MENT. THIS MOMENT IS BUILT FOR CHARGES OF US INTERFERENCE
IN ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD DISAVOW OUR OWN
LANGUAGE. IT IS ONLY MEANT TO CAUTION WASHINGTON THAT
OUR PUBLIC RESPONSE SHOULD BE FRAMED IN A WAY THAT STI-
MULATES RATHER THAN MUFFLES THE INTERNAL DISCUSSION HERE,
THAT ALLOWS THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PERES AND BEGIN TO BE
CLARIFIED THROUGH STATEMENTS BY THEM AND NOT MUDDIED THROUGH
OBVIOUS US PARTISANSHIP. LEWIS
UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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